

Today: How peaceful, progressive, and prosperous were the 1950s in reality?

Homework: The Cold War
Ch. 26-1



Apr 22-6:16 PM

Issue CW p. 3	Evidence that shows that the 1950's WERE a time of peace, prosperity & progress	Evidence that shows that the 1950's WERE NOT a time of peace, prosperity & progress
Military Buildup and Anticommunism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Truman Doctrine of containment posed a danger * Huge military buildup * Eisenhower wanted to build up US atomic arsenal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Truman Doctrine of containment posed a danger * Huge military buildup * Eisenhower wanted to build up US atomic arsenal
Bomb Shelters and The Nuclear (mother/father/children) Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a shelter = family bonding Nuclear family = portrayed as the ideal Reinforced women's role as housewives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air raid drills contributed to paranoia Fear of communism & war was constant Family resources used on bomb shelters
The "Baby Boom"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booming economy made it possible to support large families Uncertainty of war left the dream of a family the key to happiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many women were overwhelmed by family responsibilities of large families
Prefabricated Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass production of inexpensive led to the growth of suburbs Lots of gadgets! 1 house every 16 minutes at its peak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not everyone could afford one * Suburbs weren't always ideal * Keeping up with the Jones's wasn't easy * Discrimination of African-Americans

Apr 22-7:05 PM

Issue CW p. 4	Evidence that shows that the 1950's <u>WERE</u> a time of peace, prosperity & progress	Evidence that shows that the 1950's <u>WERE</u> <u>NOT</u> a time of peace, prosperity & progress
Suburban Living	GI Bill made it possible to buy homes Less noise, pollution, crime Increased need for cars	Home became the focal point, not the community = isolated families Didn't welcome minorities Stressed conformity, little individuality
Women's Roles	Their role as doting wives and mothers was reinforced by the media	Most lost their war-time jobs to the returning GIs Weekly wages dropped by over 25% Non-white and lower class women couldn't stay home & had to work
The Rise of Television	By 1957, 88% in US had at least 1 tv Provided 4-5 hours of family entertainment per day! Reinforced gender roles & happy families	Referred to as the "idiot box" TV shows featured white middle class, leaving others invisible
Elvis Presley King of Rock & Roll	Huge record and movie sales showed that teenagers LOVED him! His rhythm & blues helped open a wider audience for African Americans like Chuck Berry & Little Richard	He was lewd and way too sexual!!!! A TERRIBLE role model (said critics) Didn't openly acknowledge nor credit African-Am. influences.

Apr 22-7:36 PM



Living in a bomb shelter
6:24 min

*Happy Days
Bomb Shelter clip
4:23 min*



*Surviving an
Atomic Attack
Civil Defense film
8:45 min*



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